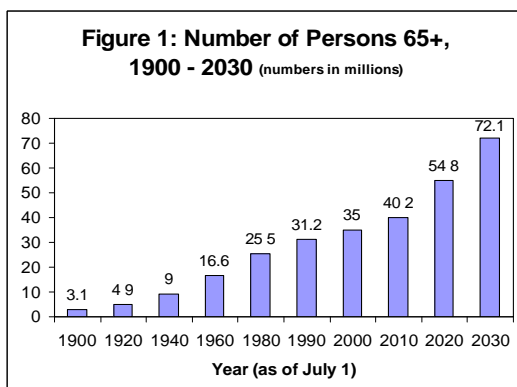




A Statistical Profile of Older Americans Aged 65+

DID YOU KNOW?

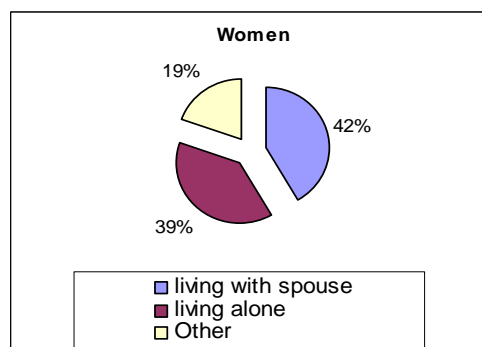
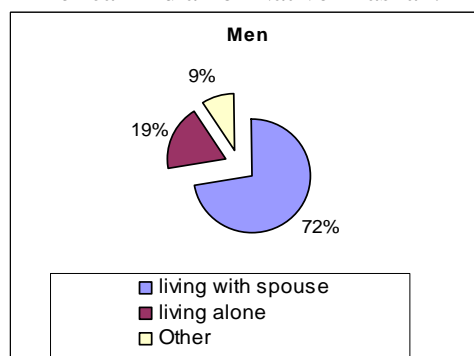
- The older population (65+) numbered 39.6 million in 2009, an increase of 4.3 million or 12.5% since 1999.
- The number of Americans aged 45-64 – who will reach 65 over the next two decades – increased by 26% during this decade.
- Since 1900, the percentage of Americans 65+ has more than tripled (from 4.1% in 1900 to 12.9% in 2009), and the number has increased almost 13 times (from 3.1 million to 39.6 million).



- Over one in every eight, or 12.9%, of the population is an older American.
- 2.6 million persons celebrated their 65th birthday in 2009.
- Older women outnumber older men at 22.7 million older women to 16.8 million older men.
- The 85+ population numbered 5.6 million in 2009 and is projected to increase to 6.6 million in 2020.
- In 2007, persons reaching age 65 had an average life expectancy of an additional 18.6

years (19.9 years for females and 17.2 years for males).

- In 2009, 19.9% of persons 65+ were minorities--8.3% were African-Americans.* Persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) represented 7.0% of the older population. About 3.4% were Asian or Pacific Islander,* and less than 1% were American Indian or Native Alaskan.

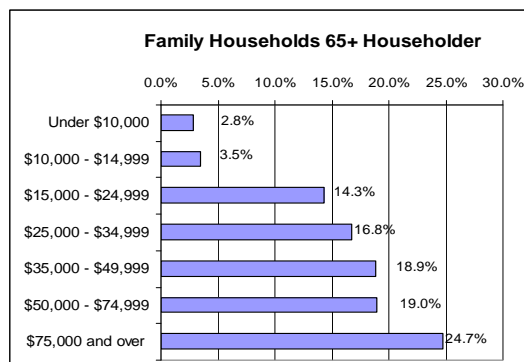


- Approximately 716,000 grandparents (and 262,000 spouses) aged 65 or over in 2009 maintained households with grandchildren present and had primary responsibility for these grandchildren.

- About 1.60 million (4.1%) of the 65+ population lived in nursing homes and other institutions in 2009. The percentage increased dramatically with age, ranging from 0.9% for persons 65-74 years to 3.5% for persons 75-84 years and 14.3% for persons 85+.

INCOME AND POVERTY

- The median income of older persons in 2009 was \$25,877 for males and \$15,282 for females. Median income of all households headed by older people rose 5.8% (statistically significant) from 2008 to 2009.
- Households containing families headed by persons 65+ reported a median income in 2009 of \$43,702 (\$45,400 for non-Hispanic Whites, \$35,049 for African-Americans, \$47,319 for Asians, and \$32,820 for Hispanics).



\$43,702 median for 13.0 million family households 65+

- The major sources of income as reported by the Social Security Administration for older persons in 2008 were:
 - o Social Security (reported by 87% of older persons),
 - o Income from assets (reported by 54%),
 - o Private pensions (reported by 28%),
 - o Government employee pensions (reported by 14%), and

- o Earnings (reported by 25%).

- In 2008, Social Security benefits accounted for 37% of the aggregate income of the older population. The bulk of the remainder consisted of earnings (30%), asset income (13%), and pensions (18%).
- Almost 3.4 million elderly persons (8.9%) were below the poverty level in 2009. This change in the poverty rate is statistically different from the poverty rate in 2008 (9.7%). Another 2.1 million or 5.4% of the elderly were classified as "near-poor" (income between the poverty level and 125% of this level).
- Older women had a higher poverty rate (10.7%) than older men (6.6%) in 2009. Higher poverty rates were reported among older African-Americans (19.5%), Hispanics (18.3%) and Asians (15.8%). Older persons living alone were much more likely to be poor (15.6%) than were older persons living with families (5.4%).

HEALTH AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

In 2009, 41.6% of non-institutionalized older persons assessed their health as excellent or very good (compared to 64.5% for persons aged 18-64 years). There was little difference between the sexes on this measure, but older African-Americans* (25.1%), older American Indians/Alaska Natives (23.2%) and older Hispanics (28.0%) were less likely to rate their health as excellent or very good than were older Whites* (41.8%) or older Asians (35.2%).

Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Among the most frequently occurring conditions of older persons in 2006-2008 were:

- hypertension (38%),
- diagnosed arthritis (50%),
- all types of heart disease (32%),
- any cancer (22%),
- diabetes (18%), and
- sinusitis (14%)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AOA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION ON AGING, WASHINGTON DC 20201

PHONE: 202.619.0724 | FAX: 202.357.3555 | EMAIL: AOAINFO@AOA.GOV | WEB: [HTTP://WWW.AOA.GOV](http://WWW.AOA.GOV)

FACEBOOK: [HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AOA.GOV](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AOA.GOV)